

QA-375

Salem Methodist Episcopal Church  
Starkey's Corner vicinity

1845

The congregation which built Salem Church was organized in 1829, and was officially incorporated in 1835. The present church was built in 1845 and replaced an earlier building on a different site which was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Architecturally, this is a fine example of the small frame parish churches commonly built during the mid-19th century. The pleasing proportions and pitched gable roof blend perfectly into the rural, wooded setting. Details of interest include the original Greek Revival trim and the extensive use of painted and grained decoration on the interior.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Salem Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

 STREET & NUMBER South side of Maryland Rt. 213, approximately one  
mile west of Starkey Corner

CITY, TOWN

Starkey Corner

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**
**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Salem Church, c/o Marion H. Chambers,

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

202 Belvedere Avenue

Treas.

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

 COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

QA-375

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Salem Methodist Episcopal Church is a small, frame building located on Maryland Route 213 approximately half-way between Centreville and Church Hill. It is sited on the east side of the road and on the north side of Granny Finley Branch, a small stream which forms the east branch of Island Creek. Large old hardwood trees shade the churchyard and cemetery, which includes grave stones dating back to the latter half of the 19th century.

The church is of frame construction on a continuous brick foundation. It is 34 feet long and 30 feet wide, with a vestibule projecting from the front (northwest) gable and a small chancel projecting from the rear gable. The main building and the vestibule have relatively steep gable roofs, but the chancel forms three sides of a hexagon and has a low-pitched tripartite roof.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The congregation which built Salem Church was organized in 1829, and was officially incorporated in January 1835. The present church was built in 1845 on land willed to the vestry by Catherine Chambers. It replaced an earlier building on a different site which was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and remained in continuous use until the 1930's. The church and grounds are still carefully maintained, and the congregation continues to use the church several times each year for special services.

Architecturally, this is a fine example of the small, frame parish churches commonly built during the mid-19th century. The pleasing proportions and pitched gable roof blend perfectly into the rural, wooded setting. Interesting details include the original Greek Revival trim, early if not original pews, and the extensive use of painted and grained decoration on the interior.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

The entrance is located in the northwest wall of the vestibule, facing the road. The double doors have long rectangular panels typical of the Greek Revival period. There are small one-over-one windows on each side wall of the vestibule, and a large six-over-six window in the upper gable of the main building. The northeast and southwest walls of the church are virtually identical, with three six-over-nine windows ranged along each side. These have molded exterior frames and are fitted with louvered wooden shutters.

On the southeast gable, the chancel projects from the center of the wall, with a pair of six-over-nine windows flanking it. Smaller two-over-two windows are located in each side wall of the chancel. There are no openings in the upper gable.

Plain horizontal siding is used throughout the building, and the corner boards are finished with a heavy bead on the corner, and a much smaller bead along the inside edge. The eaves are enclosed by a box cornice with a heavily beaded crown mold, the bed mold consists of a single large bead.

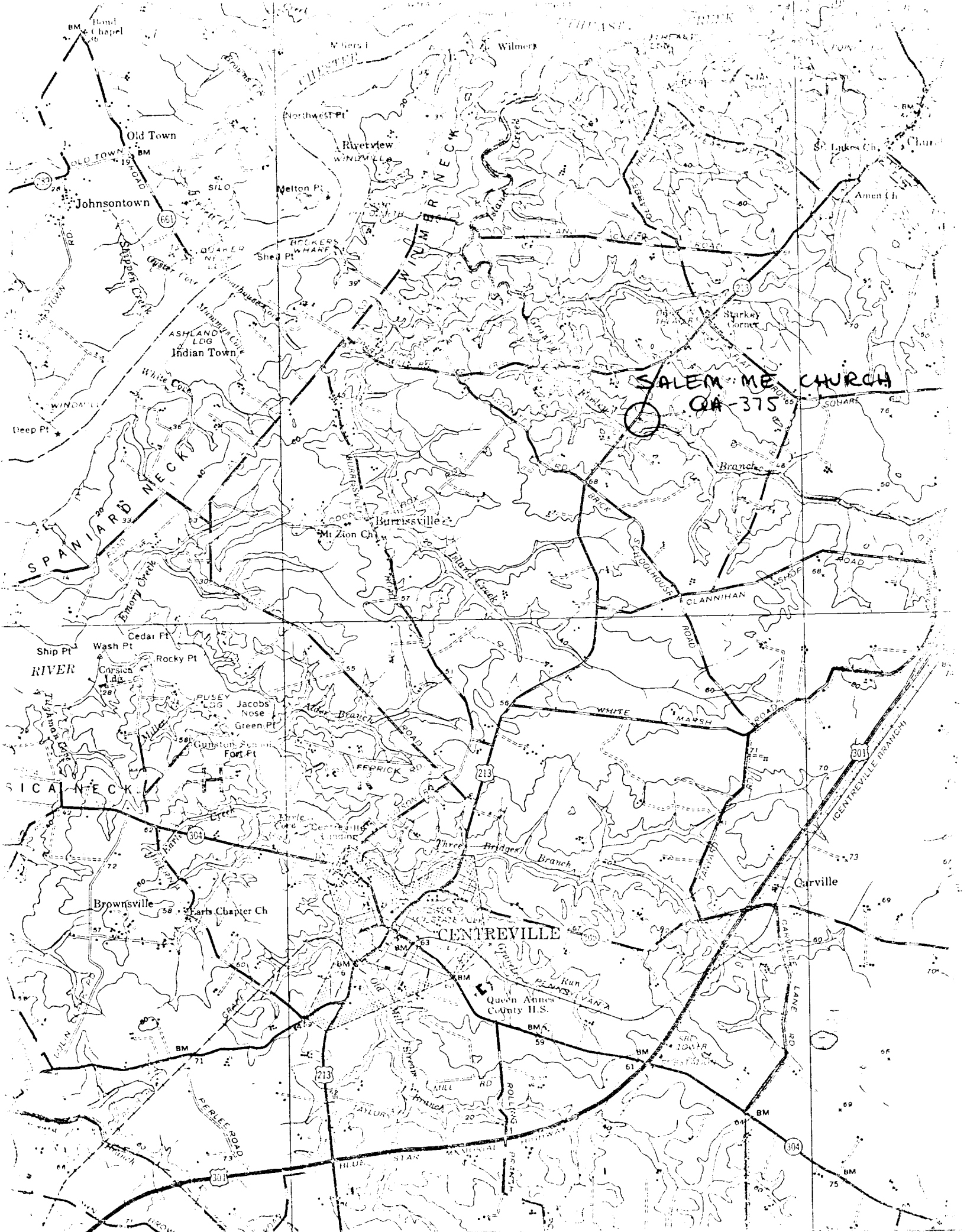
## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

The cornice is carried across both facades and returns at the gables. The gable eaves are finished with molded rakeboards.

The interior consists of a single large room in which wooden pews with boxed ends form two aisles. The pulpit is located on a raised platform at the southeast end of the church. The pulpit is enclosed by a walnut railing with turned walnut newels and square-section ballusters. The interior window and door trim as well as all of the wooden pews are also painted and grained.

An ornate, late 19th century chandelier with six kerosene lamps is suspended from the center of the ceiling. A walnut organ made by the Packard Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is located to the left of the pulpit. A brick stove chimney on the south wall services a space heater, which provides the only source of heat for the building.





QA-375  
Salem M.E. Church

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





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